(b) and (c) No State-wise allocation of funds is made for disbursement of grants-in-aid.

Cap on amount of Post-Matric Scholarship for SC/ST students

4125. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's proposal to allow only 30 lakh for SC/ST students to avail Post-Matric Scholarships, is likely to have severe constraints for their educational opportunities;

(b) if so, whether several NGOs have written to the Ministry in this regard;

(c) whether Government has considered this; and

(d) if so, what action Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Under the existing Scheme of Post Matric Scholarships for SC/ST students there is no capping on the number of Post Matric Scholarships.

Implementation of SCP and TSP

4126. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Special Component Plan (SCP)/Tribal sub-Plan (TSP) for SCs and STs incorporated in every Five Year Plan since 1979, has failed to make much headway due to its faulty implementation, with the several Government departments totally ignoring it;

(b) whether, according to a recent study, not only the proportions of these Plan allocations are far below the proportion of SC/ST population in the total population of the country, but also many of the mainstream Ministries have not been showing any allocations clearly earmarked for SCs;

(c) whether Government has considered the report fully; and

(d) what concrete meassures are proposed during the current Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) As per available information, many of the Ministries/Departments are not separately earmarking funds under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) (earlier known as Special Component Plan) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP). The Planning Commission, in December, 2006 has issued consolidated guidelines on formulation, implementation and monitoring of SCSP and TSP to Central Ministries/Department. These guidelines, *inter alia,* include earmarking of funds under SCSP and TSP from the Central Ministry/Department plan outlay at least in proportion of SC and ST population to the total population and placing the earmarked funds under separate budget head/sub-head. The Planning Commission has also constituted a Standing Tripartite Committee under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission to review the implementation of the Special strategies of Special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Castes and the Tribal Sub Plan for Scheduled Tribes and to resolve various policy-related issues thereto in respect of central Ministries/Departments as well as the State/ UT Governments.